

Florida

National Wildlife Week

Panfish Angling

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

MARCH 1965

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

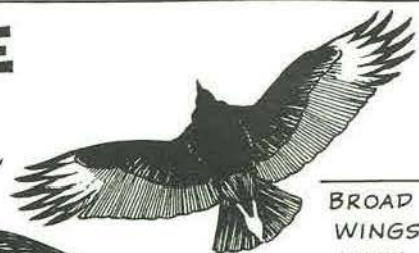


F L O R I D A

BLACK VULTURE

ALSO KNOWN AS
BLACK BUZZARD
OR JUST "BUZZARD"

BLACK BODY,
WINGS AND
TAIL • HEAD
BLACK, WRINKLED
& BARE • FEET AND
LEGS PALE GRAY • NOT
GRACEFUL IN THE AIR LIKE
THE TURKEY VULTURE OFTEN
SEEMING TO WORK VERY HARD
AT FLYING - ALTERNATELY
FLAPPING ITS WINGS AND
SAILING • COMMON
THRUOUT FLORIDA
EXCEPT RARE IN THE
KEYS • NESTS ON
THE GROUND IN
DENSE WOODS • FEEDS
MAINLY ON CARRION



BROAD
WINGS
WITH
WHITISH PATCHES
NEAR THE TIPS

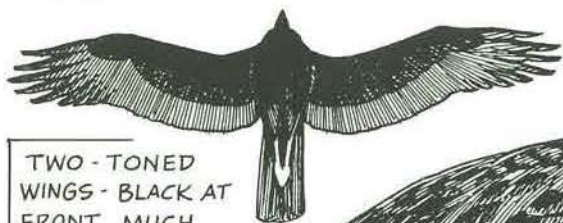
• TAIL
SHORT •
WINGSPREAD
LESS THAN
5 FT.



BIRDS OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

TURKEY VULTURE



TWO-TONED
WINGS - BLACK AT
FRONT MUCH
LIGHTER BEHIND
• WINGSPREAD 6 FT.
NEAR EAGLE-SIZE
• LONG TAIL •
ADULTS - BARE,
RED HEAD •
FEET RED •
YOUNG HEAD
& FEET
BLACK



MASTER
OF THE AIR
• USUALLY
SEEN
SOARING
GRACEFULLY
IN CIRCLES
HIGH IN THE
SKY OR
SWEEPING LOW
TO THE GROUND
IN SEARCH OF ITS
FOOD OF DEAD ANIMALS
• VERY KEEN EYESIGHT
AND SENSE OF SMELL •
NESTS ON THE GROUND
IN DENSE WOODS •
FEEDS YOUNG BY
REGURGITATION • DOES
NOT CARRY FOOD
IN BILL OR FEET

BIRDS OF FLORIDA

ALSO CALLED BUZZARD • FOUND THRUOUT FLA.

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

W I L D L I F E S C R A P B O O K

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★

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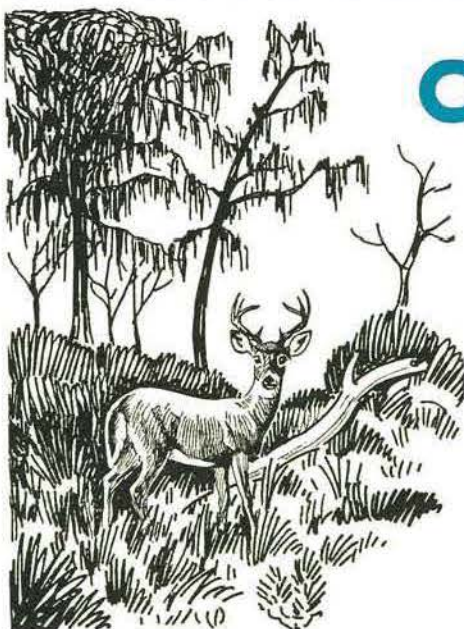
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CONSERVATION SCENE

Outdoor Recreation Requirements For States Announced

Wildlife Stamps Feature Mammals, Birds, Wildflowers

cluded Anhinga, Common Gallinule, and Green, Little Blue, Black-crowned Night and Yellow-crowned Night Herons.

New Fishing Derby

TWO STATE AGENCIES—the Board of Conservation and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission—have completed plans to conduct the Schlitz \$500,000 Florida Fishing Derby in 1965 for the fifth consecutive year, with innovations and additional cash awards.

The Derby is the world's most extensive fish tagging operation, carried out for research studies in conservation of fresh and salt water fishing resources, and improvement of Florida fishing opportunities. All costs are defrayed by the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company.

The event will run for three months in each of four geographical zones in the state, opening February 1 in southeast Florida and closing in North Florida August 31. During this seven months period, the Derby again will be open to Florida residents and visitors alike, with no requirements for participation except compliance with state fishing regulations for catches with only hook and line.

Awards ranging from \$25 to \$10,000 will be paid to cooperating fishermen who return tagged

and numbered fresh water fish to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and salt water specimens to the Board of Conservation, through collection points at all Florida Schlitz wholesalers. Additional special awards will be offered for designated fish tagged in previous years because of their greater value in determining longer movement, feeding habits, growth, and other biological information.

The schedule for the 1965 Derby follows:

Zone 1—Southeast Florida—February 1 through April 30, with fish returnable to Schlitz Wholesalers at Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Homestead and Key West.

Zone 2—Southwest Florida—April 1 through June 30—Tampa, St. Petersburg, Lakeland, Sarasota and Fort Myers.

Zone 3—Central Florida—May 1 through July 31, Orlando, Ocala, Holly Hill and Cocoa.

Zone 4—North Florida—June 1 through August 31, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Tallahassee, Panama City and Pensacola.

Company President Robert A. Uihlein said, "We feel the Annual Schlitz Florida Fishing Derby continues to achieve its purpose of supporting fishing research and recreation in Florida through conservation and im-

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THE EIGHTH WILDLIFE sanctuary of the Florida Audubon Society in Polk County is now in operation through the leasing by the Society of three hundred acres from the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. To be known as the Phosmico Wildlife Sanctuary, the area is part of a settling basin of the Company and is located south of Peace Creek a mile east of Bartow and just off Route 60. Members of the Lake Region Audubon Society, a chapter of the State Society, have already posted the property and the Virginia-Carolina Company will erect a large sign along Route 60 to designate its cooperation in this wildlife sanctuary project.

George Horel, of Lakeland, on the staff of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and chairman of the Sanctuary Committee of Lake Region Audubon, is also serving as honorary ranger for the Phosmico Sanctuary. Mr. Horel has been keeping close watch of the birds making use of the area. He says that a current outstanding feature is the thousand pairs of Cattle Egrets that nested there last spring, and that still use the acreage as a feeding zone. Other spectacular birds that nested on the property the past year in-

THE COVER

White-tailed deer fawns are born as early as February in south Florida, and as late as July in the northern portions of the state. Twin fawns, as shown on the cover, are not uncommon for healthy doe. See Page 18.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

Hunting Season Dates For 1965-66 Announced

The 1965-66 hunting season for resident game birds and animals will open one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 13, in the First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Conservation Districts. The season in the Third Conservation District will begin one week later on November 20. The 1965-66 season was established during a regular meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, January 29, at Tallahassee.

The deer hunting season will close January 2, in the First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts and January 16, in the Third District. Turkey hunting season will close January 2, in the First, Second and Fifth Districts, January 16, in the Third District and January 23, in the Fourth District. Quail and squirrel hunting season will close statewide February 27.

Several factors entered into the decision to establish the general framework for the 1965-66 hunting season during the month of January. Most important was the desire to accommodate persons who must set their vacation dates and make hunting plans substantially in advance of the opening of the season.

The season is essentially the same as 1964-65 and this season was both biologically sound and generally popular with the sportsmen, also with the new twelve month hunting license becoming effective July 1, it is necessary that the hunting season be set as early as possible in order that regulations will be available to the license buyer.

The 1965-66 season is a general framework of opening and closing dates for deer, turkey, quail, squirrel and bear. General regulations, bag limits and special regulations within the general framework will be established later in the year. ●

Careful Planning Required

Resource Availability

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

SOUND CONSERVATION is an exercise in philosophies before action is taken, but philosophies without action are meaningless. Deciding comes before doing. Wrong decisions can bring resource destitution. True conservation means fidelity to the ideals of harmonious land husbandry.

More and more, conservation is being given another dimension, the equity which future generations have in the earth's resources. This argument as a justification for conservation is given much lip service, but how concerned has been the stewardship for our children and our children's children?

We have had nothing to say about the civilization into which we are born, and to criticize it is to challenge the judgment and efforts of our ancestors. They created a fabulous opulence by conquering and taking from the land. Quite naturally, they are jealous of their successes; a new generation which would question these hardwon fruits are often considered ingrates.

Many of these narcotics of material ease have continued to increase at the expense of a shrinking outdoor environment as well as the sturdy virtues which created the opulence. Some people claim they were not virtues but greed which resulted in too much resource destruction. This is all well to say from an easy chair in an over-heated room, but a few decades ago the majority of people thought that their struggles were logical steps of progress. What we need now is a reorientation of those rugged forces. Individualism should not be scorned or destroyed. The vitality of our ancestors should be nurtured and emphasized in new generations as they walk onto the stage of time, but with new objectives intelligently defined.

In giving us ease, abundance, and leisure our forebears have at the same time denied us things which are now becoming more precious. They had wide-open spaces to a point of it being a burden to the human mind. Comforts were much fewer and more difficult to obtain. We now have almost a surfeit of the latter, but space is something we are now in fear of losing. Some desire the solitude of space, others wish elbow room to better exercise the herd instincts.

Just how much was planned for the welfare of the children and how much was a compulsive urge for immediate material prestige is impossible to determine. It was a matter of each individual and family unit to decide. The statement: "I don't want my children to work as hard as I did" has been an oft-quoted phrase, and not always in the best interests of the rising generation. Lack of job opportunity, restrictive laws, and parental indulgence have been no accolade for ambitious youngsters. Some are now interested in the moon, but others desire a facsimile of the primitive environment that has all but been eliminated.

Were the buffalo and market hunters, the timber thieves, the creator of dust bowels, the polluters, the road builders, the architects of urban sprawl thinking of posterity? Is this concern

(Continued on page 33)



Spring Bass

By CHARLES WATERMAN

THE BEST SEASON for big bass fishing comes up pretty shortly.

Lunker largemouths are best caught around spawning time in Florida. Some of the theories surrounding black bass reproduction make atomic fission sound pretty simple. Ask stupid questions about spawning bass and you'll get plenty of appropriate answers.

Here are a few innocent facts unlikely to draw arguments.

The whopper bass are females; the nest is guarded by the male after the eggs are deposited; panfish (bluegills especially) make repeated raids on bass spawn; once the eggs are hatched the male is apt to figure the heck with it and start slurping up the little basslets himself.

Everybody agrees that if all bass eggs hatched into healthy fish we'd soon be up to our casting arms in bass. One lucky mama bass could, according to the biologists, provide enough largemouths for an entire lake.

Biologists and fishermen sometimes don't agree on the egg situation, the biologists generally taking a carefree attitude that, given half a chance, we'll get more bass fry than we can use anyway; the sportsmen often figuring any eggs wasted are gone forever and why isn't something done about it?

For many years, fishing seasons were closed during the spawning period but it was decided that nothing was gained and there are few parts of the country now where you can't fish during that time.

Undoubtedly spawning time and the period that immediately precedes it produce the best catches of really big bass.

There is some argument that we thus lose valuable monsters—whoppers that took years to grow up and can't be replaced for a long time.

There are a few who mutter that big spawners should be returned to the water but no one pays much attention to this unpopular sentiment and it is common knowledge that if you throw back a 10-pound bass, the guy who caught it will generally go with it.

I once heard a spirited dockside argument between a fellow who had kept a string of small bass and a guy who was filleting one 10-pounder. Each

Tackle tips for spring bass fishing,
when the lunker largemouths
are generally caught

claimed the other was destroying the bass population.

JUST BEFORE THEY "go on the beds" bass are in a pretty pugnacious mood and in, say mid-Florida, they may be patseys for big casting plugs and some huge lures that look like nothing that ever lived but wiggle, flash, splash and rattle . . . starting as early as January 1, dependent on the weather.

These pre-spawners prowl grassy flats and weedy shallows and are not averse to surface or near-surface baits. As a rule, a good, healthy baitcasting outfit is first choice for them. It takes pretty heavy spinning gear for the heavy plugs and, in my experience, the flyrod takes only the smaller fish (I've given that a mighty good try, too).

During this red-letter period, I have been told in all seriousness by resort operators that "there's no use trying artificials, the bass are getting ready to bed."

That's the time when big shiners drifted over shallow flats are especially productive.

NOW ONCE THE FISH really get on their shallow, fanned-out nests we come to some really unusual fishing techniques.

One of the most deadly is that of actually sighting a bass or two on a "bed" and tossing a shiner right into the middle of things.

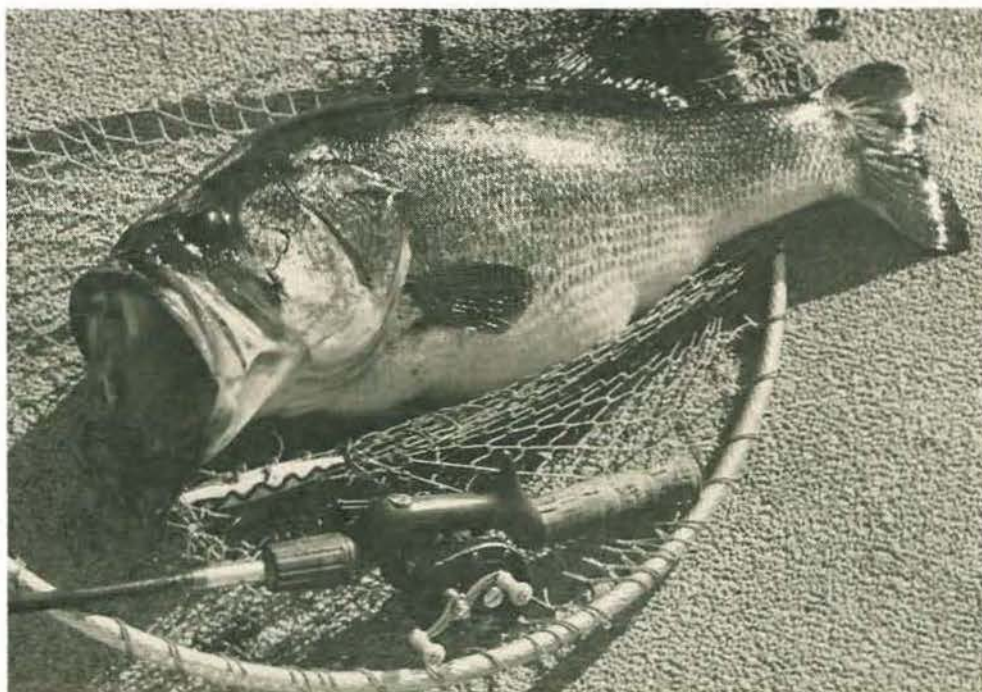
Not always does the fish eat the offering. Sometimes it simply tries to carry the intruder off the homestead to discard it. Those who use rubber worms on beds like to have some extra hooks in the lure, just in case the bass isn't prepared to swallow it.

When actually guarding a bed, male bass will sometimes slash an artificial and sometimes ignore it so I can't draw much of a conclusion there.

THERE IS NOW a movement toward protecting certain spawning areas from fishermen. Some guides who make a living showing people how to catch spawning fish from boats are strongly opposed to wading in spawning areas because the nests are thus damaged or destroyed.

Heavy motorboat traffic in shallows can destroy nests or cover them with silt—whether this is com-

Casting outfits are usually first choice for big bass like this when they're on shallow grass flats at spawning time.



mon enough to be an important factor can get you an argument.

AFTER YOU'VE boat-fished for a few days in Florida and realize that danger from poisonous snakes is virtually non-existent you're apt to become careless about one operation that CAN be risky—unhooking a snagged lure.

You hang your bait in a tree, bush or shoreline grass and when you move the boat toward it you're intent solely upon getting your lure back. An ideal place for hanging up a bait is also an ideal spot for a water-moccasin to be loafing and rattlers like waterfront views too. So look around a little before sticking your pinky into unseen areas.

Reaching for a snagged lure is also a good way to fall out of a boat, get into a wasp's nest or encounter poisonous vegetation. Backing your motor around near shore is a good way to tear it up, too.

I didn't start out to make such a big thing of it. It's just a matter of common sense.

THE ROGUE IS A medium-priced, heavy-duty fly reel. A couple of years back, I used a picture and a piece about it. Originally the Rogue was intended as a combination fly and wire-line trolling reel and it came with a long "release lever" that you operated with your finger when you wanted to remove drag tension.

That lever was fine for trolling but I couldn't see much use in it for fly fishing so I cut it off my reel to get it out of the way.

Now they're making Rogues without the release lever. I guess the new design was the result of some advice by Stu Apte, the Keys tarpon guide who found the Rogue a good rig for heavy fish. Anyway, the new model has a counterbalance for the handle and is tough as a boot. It's caught some heavy fish.

The Rogue costs \$34.75 with case and an extra spool comes to \$7.95. It's made by Rogue Reels Inc., 2912 South River Road, Grants Pass, Oregon and should fill the bill for heavy fishing if you don't want to lay down more than \$100 for a Seamaster or a Fin-Nor.

However, I don't think any fly fisherman would want the job with the release lever so anybody who orders one should make it clear if he wants the "Stu Apte Model."

THERE ARE TWO kinds of floating fish knives, one with a big, fat cork handle and one with a wooden handle and very thin blade. Both work best with fairly small fish. A blade that is long enough for filleting a really large fish with dispatch requires quite a bit of flotation gear to keep it on top—so much that it's a bit awkward.

ONE OF THE newer and better squirtums for lubricating firearms, reels and rod ferrules is MASK, produced in convenient squirting form. The address on the container is Specialized Ind. Products, 5789 28th St., S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich., 49506. What sold me was the ecstatic babbling of a guy who said the stuff loosened some ferrules that had been locked in a death grip for a year.

I OFTEN GET inquiries about the advantages of very smooth-running casting reels and a couple of fellows have asked if I thought the extra expense for ball bearings in the highest grade Ambassador casting reel is worthwhile.

That's hard to answer and it depends on the individual fisherman.

It is true that a smoothly-turning spool makes for fewer backlashes or overruns than one which goes

(Continued on page 32)

MUZZLE FLASHES



Gun Facts

By EDMUND McLAURIN

Explanatory notes on basic firearms
and ammunition information

THE VETERANS WHO brought home custom grade war souvenir sporting weapons, and domestic purchasers of post-war foreign gun imports, frequently find matching ammunition hard to come by.

The reasons are that many of the European calibers (designated in millimeter measurement in the Old Country) are not interchangeable with American ammunition calibers, and because many European firearms are custom made to odd chamber sizes in accordance with whims of individual purchasers, rather than to popular standards. Consequently, some of the required European calibers are rarely seen among American loads stacked high and in variety on dealers' shelves.

However, most of the hard to get European cartridge designations and desired bullet styles can be found among the Norma line, a Swedish small arms ammunition manufacturer franchised in this country through Norma Precision, Inc., South Lansing, New York.

Included are both fairly well-knowns and lesser acquaintances—6.5 Jap, 6.5x54MS, 6.5x55, 7x57, 7x61S&H, 7.62 Russian, 7.65 Argentine, .303 British, 7.7 Jap, 8x57JR, 8x57JS, 9.3x57, 9.3x62 and 9.3x74R. Your local sporting goods store can order the ammunition for you direct, or it can be ordered from any of a number of national distributors by dealer or consumer.

Norma ammunition is of Olympic Match grade, not to be compared with many inferior European cartridge manufactures, or with war surplus ammunition.

For truly obsolete rifle ammunition, to fit chamber sizes no longer reamed by modern firearms' manufacturers, try the firm of Medicus, 35 East Main Street, Elmsford, New York. Periodically, odd lots of ammunition in long discontinued calibers are acquired by this firm and advertised for sale through THE SHOTGUN NEWS.

Some of this old ammunition is remarkably well preserved and still potent. Only recently I fired forty-six rounds of large caliber, black powder, rifle ammunition made for use in the War Between the States. For 100 years of age, it grouped surprisingly well. Primer ignition, except for a single dud and one slow or "hang-fire," was positive.

Naturally, you purchase and shoot generations-old

or questionable manufacture war surplus grade ammunition at your own risk.

SUCCESSFUL SHOTGUNNING calls for an applied technique that begins with good gun fit and ends with touching off shots at precisely the right moment. This holds true whether one shoots upland game or waterfowl, trapshoots or participates in Skeet shooting.

Between the alpha of good gun fit and the omega of accurate firing there can be a number of existing conditions or exercised shooting habits that can influence final results.

The shotgun is the most popular of hunting weapons, yet, surprisingly, relatively few shooters are intimately acquainted with an owned shotgun in respect to physical dimensions, internal functioning and the most efficient manner of using the smooth-bore weapon.

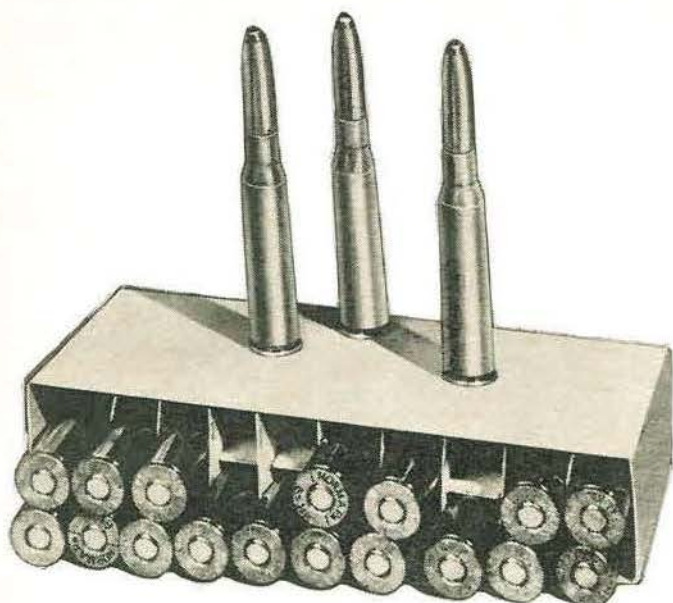
During the coming months I plan to devote full treatment to various phases of shotgunology, beginning with a comprehensive article on the importance of good gun fit and how to know whether or not you have it in your present shotgun or will have it in a contemplated purchase. The gun fit phase, particularly, is not one to be treated superficially in text, nor laconically in a letter; hence, the planned column, to give readers an applicable guide to good gun fit.

Meanwhile, I recommend collateral reading of two excellent, illustrated booklets on the selection and use of a shotgun.

The first is "Basic Shotgun Instruction," written for all ages, price 25¢ from the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

The second, "Basic Training In Shotgun Shooting," priced at a dollar on order from Ithaca Gun Company, Ithaca, New York (or possibly complimentary from your local Ithaca gun dealer), is especially suitable for sensible, safe introduction of a young shooter to his or her first shotgun.

KEN VENTURI, California pro golfer now claiming a Central Florida course as his home base, says he



Olympic Match grade ammunition for foreign rifle calibers is now available in this country under the Norma label.

believes that target practice with a rifle between golf tournament dates tends to sharpen his accuracy for putting. I go along with that philosophy.

I played championship basketball until I was 33 years old, long after former teammates had sought less physically demanding sports. I am confident that pre-game .22 caliber target practice—especially fast snap-shooting—improved my ball handling and goal shooting on the basketball court.

Like Venturi, I believe that split-second decision and coordination developed and intensified by regular shooting of moving type targets with a .22 rifle can be made to pay off in other sports.

It is a good idea to mark with owner name, or otherwise make readily identifiable, all items of sporting equipment.

This is especially good insurance against possible mix-up or misunderstanding where a number of persons assemble to use equipment of identical make and model, or of common physical appearance. Neatly executed name identification also adds a distinctive touch.

For the past three years I have used small, Platco-brand No. 702, plastic name plates, manufactured by Southeastern Sales Corp., 1705 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida.

The plates are made from hard, $\frac{5}{32}$ of an inch thick, durable plastic, and are $2\text{--}\frac{5}{16}$ inches long by $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch wide. The four corners are attractively angle-cut, and there is a small mounting-screw hole in each end of the plate.

Solid black panel background with white name

lettering $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch high probably makes the neatest and most striking color combination. However, the name plates can also be had with choice of red or green background (with white name lettering), or solid white background with black lettering. Minimum order is 25 name plates, all alike; unit cost figures out to about 19 cents per plate, including added 3% Florida state sales tax.

To mount the name plates on equipment, you can use small screws or miniature bolts when making installation on hard materials, like wood and plastic tackle boxes, hard leather gun cases, golf club bags, etc. For mounting on soft leathers and other pliable materials, Pliobond or Borden's Epoxy cement can be used, or the name plates can be neatly sewn on with matching color nylon fishing line, using the ready-made screw holes.

Whatever the receiving material, sparingly coat the back of the name plate with adhesive before placement, later adding supplementary screws or end-whip nylon stitching to make the attachment truly permanent.

It is also possible to put a nylon fishing line or a leather thong loop through one of the end holes in a name plate and thereafter use it as a readily detachable tag, like those used on suitcases.

THERE SEEMS TO BE reader need for occasional inclusion of some technical or semi-technical explanation of a single phase of gunology.

From time to time short explanatory texts will be tacked on to this column, to provide a so-called beginner's basic thesaurus of firearms information. . . .

The *breech* of a firearm is the rear portion of the bore where the cartridge or shell is inserted into a smooth bored chamber.

The *breechblock* is a sliding metal block at the breech which serves to plug the rear of the bore, supporting the head of the cartridge when the gun is loaded and fired. The breech bolt takes the thrust of the expanding powder gases and blocks the force of these gases to the rear. The peak of this rearward pressure is expressed in pounds per square inch. During factory testing, breech pressure is measured with a special pressure gauge. Even with rifles of the .22 rimfire class, developed breech pressures run high. Newly manufactured firearms are proof-fired with special, extra powerful ammunition to prove their qualities before being released to the trade.

In using a gun, the shooter should first make sure that all oil or grease is removed from gun chamber, bore and ammunition, so that cartridge cases properly grip the walls of the gun's chamber and do not exert undue backward thrust on the breechblock when fired. ●

Hunting-Trials-Training



By JIM FLOYD

Northwest Florida inaugural field trial
rates with the country's best

ON DECEMBER 14, 1964 the inaugural running of the Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Clubs open field trial took place. This was on the three thousand acre field trial area, of the St. Regis Wildlife Management Area, in extreme northwest Florida just south of the Alabama line. To say that this field trial was outstanding would be a discredit to the members of the club, to the dogs that competed, to the judges and trial officials and to the handlers and gallery. In every way this field trial will surely go down in the annals of field trial history as one of the greatest and the club will be hard pressed to surpass the year's activity.

The work for this field trial did not start with the running of the first dog but had been in progress for more than a year. It would be an injustice to the club to report the field trial without providing some word on club activities.

The Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Club, located in Pensacola, stands unique among sportsmen clubs for efforts in establishing and maintaining a truly outstanding field trial area. At the very beginning the club managed to have three thousand acres of the twenty-five thousand acre St. Regis Wildlife Management Area set aside for field trial purposes. The club, with the assistance of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, posted the trial area. The work did not stop with the posting, as the club developed more than ninety quail food plots throughout the area. These food plots represent the

combined efforts of the club and the Game Commission, with the Commission providing the seed and the club doing the planting.

The value of these food plots to the area was established beyond question during the trial as a number of finds were in the immediate vicinity of the plots. The club purchased its own tractor and farm equipment. The members have assembled throughout the past, during the spring and summer week-ends, for the sole purpose of planting and tending their quail food gardens. No hunting is allowed in the field trial area.

This field trial was a big undertaking for a club with little more than one year experience and everyone was more or less holding their breath until the time of the drawing on Sunday night, December 13.

At the conclusion of the draw-

ing 76 dogs were braced for the three stakes. There were 54 all age dogs, 16 derby entries and 6 youngsters for the puppy stake. To have 76 dogs entered in three stakes is outstanding, and is even more outstanding considering this was the club's first big field trial. When studying the entry and recognizing the quality of the entries, one wants to remove his field trial hat in respect.

VENDETTA Wins Open All-Age: The first dog drawn on Sunday night was a liver and white male pointer named "Vendetta," owned by Harold Sharp of Atlanta, Georgia, and handled by John Rex Gates of Leesburg, Georgia. No one questioned the quality of the dog's performance during the first sixty minutes of the field trial. "Vendetta" exhibited all that could be desired in a truly outstanding bird dog with a front-running race, and



Gallery of handlers and spectators follow the inaugural all-age field trial of the Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Club.

about as big a race as possible without running completely out of judgment. "Vendetta" made three finds during the course and handled each with the style of a champion. He finished every bit as strong as when he started and seemed ready for more. At the conclusion of the first day's field activity it was apparent to all that "Vendetta" was the top dog of the day.

As the trial entered the second, third, fourth and final day it also became apparent that this was the dog and performance that had to be beaten to win the field trial. At the conclusion of the Open All-Age, and with the announcement of the winner, many opinions were confirmed that "Vendetta" had set a standard for field trial performance with the first race that had not been surpassed by the other 53 dogs. "Vendetta" is reigning champion of the All-American All-Age field trial at Carbondale, Illinois, and the National Amateur Stakes at Albany, Georgia.

HASTY NELL takes Second Place: "Hasty Nell" a white and liver colored female pointer owned by Ed Fenelon of Palos Heights, Illinois, and handled by Roy Jines of Forkland, Alabama, brought home the second place bacon with style and grace as she recorded two excellent finds and produced a strong forward race from start to finish. Strange as it may seem "Hasty Nell" was one of the last dogs to run on the first day of the trial. A wag might be prone to comment that the field trial could have stopped at this point; however, no trial is over until the last dog has been picked up.

FLAMING STAR takes Third Place: "Flaming Star" a white and orange male setter owned by Dr. James Hoffmeister of Kingston, Tennessee, and handled by Herman Smith of Hatchechubbee, Alabama, received the judicial nod as the third place dog for the trial. "Flaming Star" was the only setter entered in the All-Age trial



Winners and officials of the field trial: Kneeling, from left, handler John Rex Gates with "Vendetta," winner of the Open All-Age; Roy Jines with second place "Hasty Nell," and handler Herman Smith with "Flaming Star." Standing, from left, club president Bob Weeks; trial judge Dick Dickerson; trial chairman Jack Fiveash; trial judge Joe Hurdle, and registration chairman Arthur Brown.

and carried the laurels for his breed with two finds and a strong race. "Flaming Star" exhibited his style and hunting ability on the morning of the second day of the trial, and came close to being out of judgement until located on birds by Smith.

Derby Stakes

The derby stakes got under way on Friday afternoon soon after the completion of the Open All-Age. With sixteen entries the results seemed to follow the pattern established at the Open All-Age. John Rex Gates and a liver and white pointer named "War Detector" set a pace and established a performance that was never quite equaled during the derby running. "War Detector" owned by Rodger Hayes and handled by Gates ran with the manner of an all-age dog and produced a single find that he handled with classic derby style. It was the second win for Gates at the Northwest Florida trials.

Second place in the derby stake was awarded to "Hera" a white and orange female pointer owned by Bill Sonier and handled by Leon Covington of Calhoun, Alabama. Third place went to "Mr.

White Knight" a white and orange male pointer owned by R. W. Riggins of Knoxville, Tennessee, and handled by Herman Smith of Hatchechubbee, Alabama.

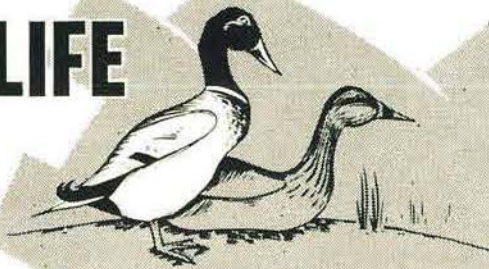
Puppy Stakes

"White Knight's Pete" a white and orange male pointer, owned by Riggins and handled by Smith was named top of the puppy stake. "White Knight's Pete" failed to produce a single find but demonstrated a snappy, wide ranging race that indicated a prospective future in field trial competition. The second puppy "Automation" owned by George Clark of Columbus, Georgia, and handled by Smith was braced with the first place winner. "Automation" seemed to have a little more drive than the first place puppy, but did not appear as mature as the winner. The third place puppy "Tuffy Lynn" was a white and orange male setter owned by Dr. Lynn of Dallas, Texas. The setter was never wide off course and had a good searching race.

Riding the judicial saddles at the Inaugural field trial of the
(Continued on page 34)

POLLUTION

KILLS WILDLIFE



DESTROYS PROPERTY VALUES



ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH



FIGHT DIRTY WATER

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK • MARCH 14-20, 1965

National Wildlife Week

Water, America's most vital natural resource, will be the center of attention during National Wildlife Week, March 14-20, 1965. The National Wildlife Federation is asking every citizen to join in efforts to insure enough clean water for America's present and future needs.

By 1980—only 15 years from now—America will need 600 billion gallons of water each day. By the year 2,000, we will need a trillion gallons daily. It would take a tank car train 600,000 miles long to haul it. But unless we can find a cheap way to convert salt water to fresh, hydrologists estimate our maximum fresh water supply will be only 650,000 gallons a day.

The National Wildlife Federation has emphasized the fact that with this increasing demand for fresh water, the only answer is to re-use existing water supplies. Some authorities say we will need to re-use our water six times by 1980. This is the reason water pollution control is the most important conservation program in America today.

Every citizen is urged to put the slogan "Fight Dirty Water" into practice. Wastes from homes, factories, farms, boats and numerous other sources are reducing our supplies of useable water. First we must invest more money in city and industrial water treatment plants. Second, we need more research to find better ways to treat water so that it can be re-used and re-used to meet our growing needs. Finally, we must support strong anti-pollution laws for our rivers, streams and lakes.

National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and state affiliates, such as the Florida Wildlife Federation, has been held each year since 1952.

NEEDED:

Clean Waters

THE UNITED STATES is in the midst of the greatest effort in its history to clean up its rivers and streams.

In the past 7 years our cities have spent over 2 billion dollars to build new waste treatment plants or enlarge old ones. Our industries have built many treatment facilities too, and have developed new manufacturing processes to keep their wastes out of the water. All 50 of our States have operating programs of water pollution control. And at the Federal level, there is a new and strengthened Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

But none of this is enough. Our population is growing and becoming more concentrated, thereby creating acute and special problems of waste disposal. Our industry and agriculture are becoming more productive, and throwing off pollutants that are unbelievably more complex than any that our water engineers have encountered hitherto. The amount of pollution in our rivers and streams increases daily; by robbing us of clean water it is imperiling human health and destroying fish and wildlife.

The citizen and only the citizen can help. *No real progress in solving any health or social problem can ever come about without the support of an informed and determined public.*



Modern living demands vast quantities of clean water—12 gallons every time someone takes a shower, 200 gallons to make one dollar's worth of paper, 65,000 gallons to manufacture an automobile, 320,000 gallons to produce one ton of aluminum and 750,000 gallons to irrigate one acre of farmland.

Right now America uses 350 billion gallons of water every day. By 1980 we will need 597 billion gallons a day, and by the year 2000, 969 billion gallons.

Where is this water going to come from? There is not enough "new" water to meet the needs. We must use the water we have over and over again. To do this the water must be kept clean—clean enough for municipal water supplies, clean enough to meet the needs of industry and agriculture.

Protecting our economy is only one reason why we must keep our rivers and streams clean. We must also have clean water to protect our health, to give our people good recreation, to protect our fish and wildlife.

Every city has (or should have) a clean water program. This means a safe and reliable source of water, properly designed sewage systems, and adequate and well operated sewage treatment plants.

In the words of one State—Maryland—"no community has the right to deprive its people of clean waters by using streams as a dumping ground for sewage, wastes, and refuse." And it tells its citizens "if you live in a community which has a sewerage system but no sewage treatment works *you are contributing pollution to the streams of your State.*"

The States have the basic responsibility for water pollution abatement. In most cases, the State water pollution control agency is located in the State capital. In cities, water pollution control is generally the function of the City Engineer's office, the city's water agency, or its Health Department.

The Federal Government helps abate water pollution in four principal ways—

CONSTRUCTION—United States cities are spending \$700 million annually on new or enlarged treatment plants. To help, the Federal Government can pay 30 percent up to \$600,000 for municipal waste treatment construction.

Those who use water must return it to rivers, lakes and streams as nearly clean as possible. Citizens must support efforts to increase research on pollution control.



Water consumption in the United States is the key to the American standard of living. A large paper mill requires 50 million gallons of water per day. It takes 18 barrels of water to produce a barrel of oil, 25 gallons of water to produce a gallon of aviation gas, and 250 tons of water to make a ton of steel. This use steadily increases.

ENFORCEMENT—Because water respects no political boundaries, law enforcement is necessary. A poor neighbor upstream can pollute and contaminate a river miles below. Federal enforcement actions have now involved more than 7,000 miles of rivers, streams and bays, 600 cities, and a like number of industries.

RESEARCH—To find out what pollutants are dangerous and how they can be prevented or made harmless, much more research is needed. Federal scientists are studying ways to renovate waste water, transforming it into pure clean water again. Four separate laboratories are being built and five more are planned to meet regional and special water quality problems.

RIVER BASIN PLANNING—Water quality and water problems vary, and river basin planning and comprehensive studies are necessary. Federal projects in eight major river basins are working to preserve water quality there, not only for the present but for the years to come.

Every citizen should know what is going on in his own river basin and what steps need to be taken

to protect his own local river, stream, lake or shore. Here is where you can find out what needs to be done—

From Your City: Find out what is being done to treat your city's wastes. Does it have secondary treatment (the most efficient kind) or primary treatment or no treatment at all? Find out, too, what kind of wastes may be produced by industry in your area and what is being done to control these wastes.

From Your State: Find out what your State Water Pollution Control Agency is doing and how you can help its program. There may also be a river basin agency in your area which looks after water quality in your river. If so, your State agency will be able to tell you, and give you its address.

From Your Civic or Conservation Organization: Many civic and women's groups and all conservation groups have clean water programs. Get in touch with those in your own community and find out what you can do.

From Your Federal Government: For further information about the Federal Government's program, write the Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., 20201.

By joining in the struggle for clean water, you can play an important role in assuring the future prosperity of this country and in maintaining the health of our people. An adequate supply of clean water is essential if we are to achieve these goals. ●

— Next Page —



America is blessed with adequate water supplies but the country is faced with an acute water shortage unless steps are taken now to halt water pollution.

Fight Dirty Water

NATIONAL WILDLIFE Week, scheduled for March 14-20 this year, is one of the many worthwhile conservation education projects sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Representing some two million members of state conservation organizations, individual contributors and associate members, the Federation was organized in 1938 to coordinate citizen efforts in sound management of the nation's natural resources—soils, waters, forests, rangelands and wildlife—through educational programs. The Federation publishes the bi-monthly CONSERVATION NEWS, the weekly CONSERVATION REPORT, and provides numerous conservation education leaflets for teachers and school



Water is America's most valuable resource, and by 1980 the nation will need an estimated 600 billion gallons of water daily. By the year 2,000, it is estimated that the United States will need approximately a trillion gallons per day. National Wildlife Week is designed to make every American aware of the great needs for pollution control programs.

children, and other services as part of its educational program. The privately-financed organization also awards, each year, a number of scholarships and fellowships to college students majoring in conservation and distributes information on conser-

vation problems to the public through newspapers, radio and television stations.

The observance of National Wildlife Week is conducted at the local level by sportsmen's clubs, conservation clubs and other groups which are members of the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Valuable assistance is provided by state government conservation agencies.

This year National Wildlife Week will focus public attention on the problem of pollution control and prevention in America's streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Using the slogan—"FIGHT DIRTY WATER"—the Federation is seeking public awareness and support in efforts to ensure adequate, clean water supplies so necessary to America's growth and prosperity.



Unless we can find an economical way to convert salt water to fresh, America will soon run short of its water supply.

EVERY CITIZEN of this state and nation should take an active interest in this year's National Wildlife Week observance, March 14-20. Sponsored annually since 1952 by the National Wildlife Federation, the world's largest citizen conservation organization, the observance is designed to focus public attention on an important conservation problem. This year, the subject is pollution control and prevention.

Clean water, of all our natural resources, is the most important and the most vital asset to every human being. Without it, there would be no life on this planet, and there is no synthetic substitute. And, we Americans are consuming water at an amazing rate.

Although each of us could survive on only six pints of water per day, we are using an average of 150 gallons per day for domestic purposes—drinking, bathing, cooking, doing the laundry, washing the car, watering the lawn, flushing toilets, and for other purposes. But it takes much more



Control of pollution is America's most pressing conservation problem, and by 1980 the nation will need to re-use existing water supplies at least six times to meet domestic, industrial and agricultural needs.

than that to provide us with our food, clothing, and other things we use to maintain our high standard of living. Even if we

could live by bread alone, the water required to grow the wheat would come to 300 gallons per day per person. Another 2,500 gallons per day is needed to produce the milk, butter, eggs, cheese and meat which make up so much of the present American diet. The total amount of water required to maintain our present standard of living actually comes to about 15,000 gallons per person per day.

As the National Wildlife Federation points out, the only way to supply that much water for present and future populations is to make every gallon in our rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and irrigation systems count. We must stop pollution—domestic, industrial, and agricultural—before it starts, clean up waters that have been polluted in the past, and make every gallon available for more than a single use.

By 1980, America will need 600 billion gallons of water each day. We cannot afford to wait in the hope that additional water supplies, such as converting salt waters into fresh, will be available. The time to FIGHT DIRTY WATER is now!

Pollution Control Doesn't Cost IT PAYS



Although a person could survive on only six pints of water per day, Americans are now using at least 150 gallons per day in their homes.



Photos By
Leonard Lee Rue III

Florida's White-tailed

The white-tailed Deer is Florida's most abundant and most valuable big game animal. According to census calculations by Game Commission biologists about 130,000 deer inhabit the state's forests, swamps, hammocks and prairies.

More than 340,00 hunters annually spend around 2½-million dollars to harvest approximately 14,000 white-tails, rating our deer population valuable financially as well as aesthetically. Good management based on the constant study of deer herds by Commission biologists continue to promote an increase in deer numbers throughout the state, despite encroachment upon deer habitat by the needs of a zooming human population.

Hallmark of the White-tailed Deer is its white tail, flashing magnificently from side to side as it flees in alarm into a marshy area, photo below. Deer tend to multiply rapidly; a healthy doe may produce twin fawns, photo at right, for as long as 14 years.

Deer herds must be watched carefully to prevent overcrowding, causing serious damage to their health and habitat. Like cows, a given "deer pasture" will support only a given number of deer, all dependent upon the year around food supply. Fawns are born as early as February in south Florida, and as late as July in the northern part of the state.

Photo By Tom Wayman



Photo By Karl Maslowski



Each year the buck deer sheds, or "drops" his antlers, photo at far left, and grows a new set. The shed antlers are not often found in the wilds because they are quickly covered with vegetation, are eaten by rodents, and will rapidly decay under certain conditions.

Soon after shedding occurs — beginning in November in south Florida, December in the central areas, and January through the northern parts — new antlers begin to grow, circle photo left. The growing antlers are fragile, filled with blood vessels, and covered with skin and fine hair. Bucks are referred to as being "in the velvet" during this time. The buck, at right, displays a fully formed "rack" of antlers, still in the velvet.

Size of antlers, or number of points, do not indicate age, but rather reveals the health of the animal, and habitat condition. Well fed, vigorous bucks grow good size antlers. Undernourished, sickly bucks the same age, on overcrowded range may grow only "spikes." The age of deer is determined by noting development and amount of wear of its teeth.

Deer

BY WALLACE HUGHES



Photo By Bob Brantly

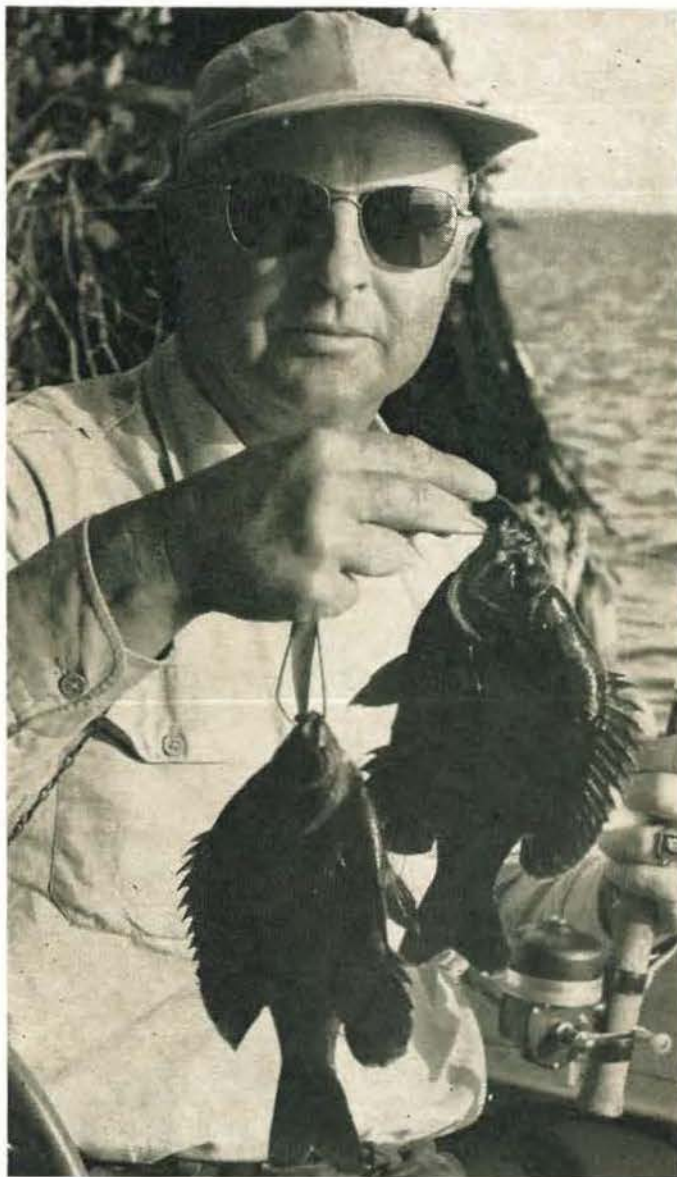
Prior to the breeding, or "rutting" season, below, the antlers harden, the skin is rubbed off, and the buck is willing and ready to fight other bucks for the favor of the does. During the rutting season — August in south Florida, September in central areas, and October in northern regions — the buck deer is one of the most dangerous animals in the wild.

Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III



Panfish

BY CHARLES WATERMAN



Lake bluegills caught on a deep running spinner. Some waters produce bream "black as your hat." Bait and cane poles still catch more panfish than any other equipment.

THERE ARE A LOT MORE panfish than people so we needn't worry about running out.

Since there isn't much glory attached to bringing in a mess of bluegills, Florida's larger fish will continue to get the publicity. Besides, the tourists have bluegills and crappies back home.

Those are the most popular panfish and we can say with pride that some of our crappie require the larger-sized pans. Bluegills and crappie are found in 48 of the states and I don't know about Hawaii and Alaska.

In Florida we have both black and white crappie but I can't always tell a blonde black crappie from a brunet white crappie and they taste the same.

We have some other sunfish such as rock bass (called goggle-eye in many sections) and stump-knockers or spotted sunfish as well as shellcrackers. Warmouth are plentiful.

Although much of my youth was devoted to the pursuit of bullheads, often listed as panfish, I'm going to stick to the sunfish types this time.

I think artificials are more fun but bait catches a lot more panfish. In fact, many top game fishermen turn to bait for a mess of bream. It's more reliable than artificials although most of the really spectacular panfishing I've seen was with lures and flies.

Light spinning tackle is pretty nearly No. 1 on the panfish program and, although I'm a bit overboard on fly rods myself, I have to concede there are times when the long stick takes a beating.

Right now, the two biggest things in panfishing are some highly refined spinners and the rubber spider. In the same class are some very small plugs with spinners.



Angling

Forced to take a back-seat as far as publicity goes, Florida's panfish family offers light tackle fishing fun throughout the state

A few years back, almost all panfish lures were miniature models of popular bass baits. Now, the little fellows are getting some of their own.

Bait fishing for bluegills and their relatives won't require long casts. A light cane pole or a fairly heavy fly rod will probably serve you better than spinning gear for this. Sinkers and snaps are generally a handicap although there are times when small minnows must be gotten deep for crappie ("speckled perch").

You can cast live bait with a spinning rod but panfish baits are frequently too small without the addition of a sinker or bobber. When a bobber is used there is no reason why a spinning or spin-cast outfit won't work but many panfish baits are fragile and a gentle cast is called for.

Before spinning tackle immigrated to this country, I sometimes used to fish for panfish with a regular baitcasting rod and a heavy bobber. A float can be a big help. Generally very light ones are best if you don't need casting weight as they're sensitive to nibbling and offer a minimum of resistance when the fish takes the bait. Of course, with a float you have an excellent means of adjusting your bait depth, even though it may be a considerable distance from you.

Don't figure a fisherman is necessarily headed for the happy house when he shows up with an artificial lure and a bobber above it. I once saw a fellow cleaning up on "specks" with a small jig and bob-

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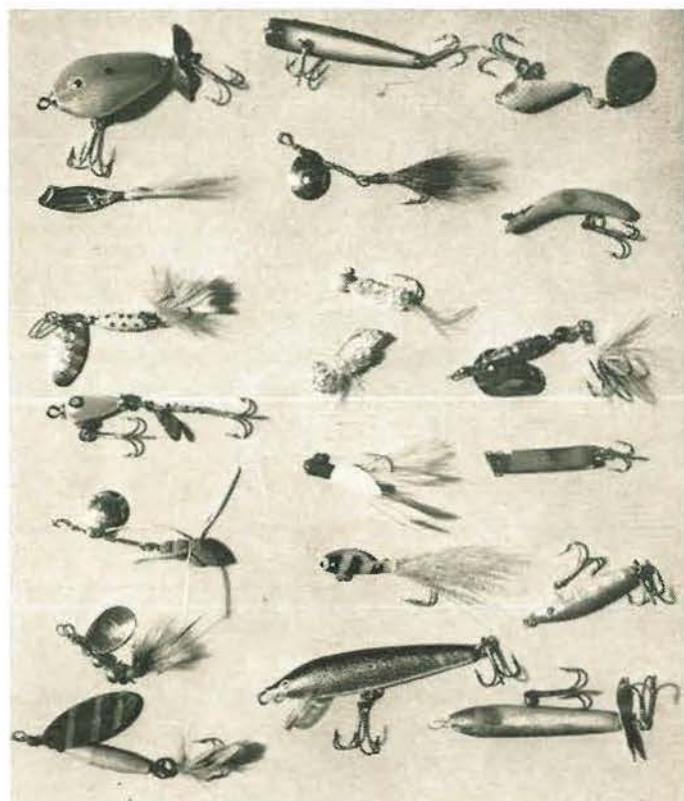
Small popping bug with rubber legs was too much for this shellcracker, above. Back country streams are excellent in late spring; canoeists have inside track for panfish.





A crappie can be handled by the lower lip the same as bass. This one fell for a miniature jig.

Some of the countless variations of spinning rod artificials for panfish. Squirrel tail flies and rubber spiders fished with small spinners are current favorites. Small jigs are especially good lures for crappie.



(Continued from preceding page)

ber. He didn't have a boat and he'd cast the bobber and jig well out with his spinning outfit and then work it back very slowly with the jig barely touching the bottom. If he twitched his rod, the jig would rise off the bottom, only to drop back in approved fashion. The specks loved it. A float isn't generally much help with a spinner.

The less junk you have hanging to a bait, the better panfish like it. The size of hooks depend on the size of the fish but very tiny ones give a lot of trouble when swallowed. You can't release little fish and getting back the hook requires major surgery.

Angleworms are used on more bluegills than any other bait. Admittedly, a worm looped very loosely on a hook may appear more attractive to the fish but, having small mouths, bluegills can easily get away with a bait unless it's fairly well threaded.

Crickets are wonderful bream takers although they can be pretty fragile. The bait houses raise their own and not many Florida fishermen go on cricket hunts. Grasshoppers are good and catalpa and bonnet worms are highly prized. All kinds of grubs work. Mussels, snails and clams dredged off the bottom are good.

Bonnet worms are found in the stems of lily pads, probably beneath the surface. You find his hole at the top and when you split the stem he pops to the surface.

Small minnows are first choice among speck fishermen but it takes a very tiny minnow to work well on bluegills.

Using a light cane pole, bait can be lowered against the shoreline obstructions or through openings in bonnet patches or hyacinth jams. Almost everyone uses monofilament line these days—anything from 4 to 10-pound test. Good panfish anglers take the fish out of the water with a quick lift rather than a jerk. The limber tip of a light cane pole takes up the shock of your strike and keeps the hook from tearing out.

A fly rod can be used the same way, either with monofilament line or with regular fly line and a leader. You can't really fly cast bait but you can give it a gentle flip that will carry it out pretty well, using a level fly line. You fish monofilament line the same as if you had a cane pole.

Small jigs and weighted spinning lures are generally considered best of spinning baits for crappie. They can be trolled over Florida lakes until fish are located and then you can cast if you want to. For speckled perch, things should be kept in slow motion.

I wouldn't dare suggest that anyone use a pair of oars in trolling for specks but you'd better keep your outboard at a pretty slow idle. It's when specks are bedding that the big catches are made as they seem to hang in large, loose schools. Most Florida

specks are caught during the winter months and early spring. That doesn't mean they can't be caught at other times.

Crappie are usually near the bottom. I've caught more of them in water several feet deep than anywhere else but I've seen lots of them come up from great depths in northern impoundments. I've also seen them taken readily in water barely deep enough to cover them.

The approved method of catching a crappie on a jig is to make a short cast with it, preferably near brush piles or logs, let it sink to the bottom as fast as it wants to go and then pick it up gently to start a very slow retrieve, letting it settle back toward the bottom at intervals of a foot or so. Crappie generally take gently—often your jig simply doesn't get back to the bottom. When you find a school of specks they may keep coming for quite a while. Actually, they seem to get stirred up when you catch a few and may be all over your lure for a few minutes.

Crappie are "papermouths" all right but I wouldn't say there's much danger of pulling out the hook if you use light tackle. Four-pound-test monofilament is about right for your spinning rod, which should be fairly soft.

Bluegills and their relatives are generally caught below the surface during cool weather although they aren't nearly so susceptible to jigs as the crappie. Very small spinners ahead of some sort of fly are generally first choice and most below-surface fishermen prefer spinning tackle. You hear a lot about the Mepps spinner and the Shyster, both of which have weighted bodies integral with the spinner itself. There are hundreds of variations.

The use of a small, treble-hooked fly behind these spinners is very good for fish with small mouths and a tendency to nibble. Treble-hooked squirrel tail flies seem to be the most popular at present. Squirrel tail is durable and seems to have a bit more action than feathers. Bucktail is just as good. I suppose there may be some difference in colors at times but I wouldn't worry too much about that.

The rubber spiders or "bream-killers" are simply little sponge rubber bodies with rubber legs on single hooks. They're not hard to make at home. They were originally intended as fly rod lures but quite a few fishermen have used them with spinners.

The rubber band legs, usually white in color, have a great attraction for fish. One of the best things about rubber spiders is that a fish, once he has felt one, wouldn't part with it for anything. It's just what he's always wanted and he keeps tussling with it until he gets hooked. There is no reason

why a rubber spider won't work fine with a cane pole about 10 or 12 feet long.

The spider, when used as a fly, rests in the surface film, appearing soggy like a real spider that has flunked his navigation test.

Proper manipulation of such a dingus is very slight twitches which cause the rubber legs to bend in the water and return shakily to their former position.

All of this quivering and coiling is too much for a bluegill.

You'll take some small bass on the spiders but I think they prefer slightly more action in their bugs.

Accurate casting and slow retrieve are very important in shoreline panfishing. Most panfish don't move far for their quarry, which means you'll want your lure very close to the cover, whether it be a bonnet or a stump.

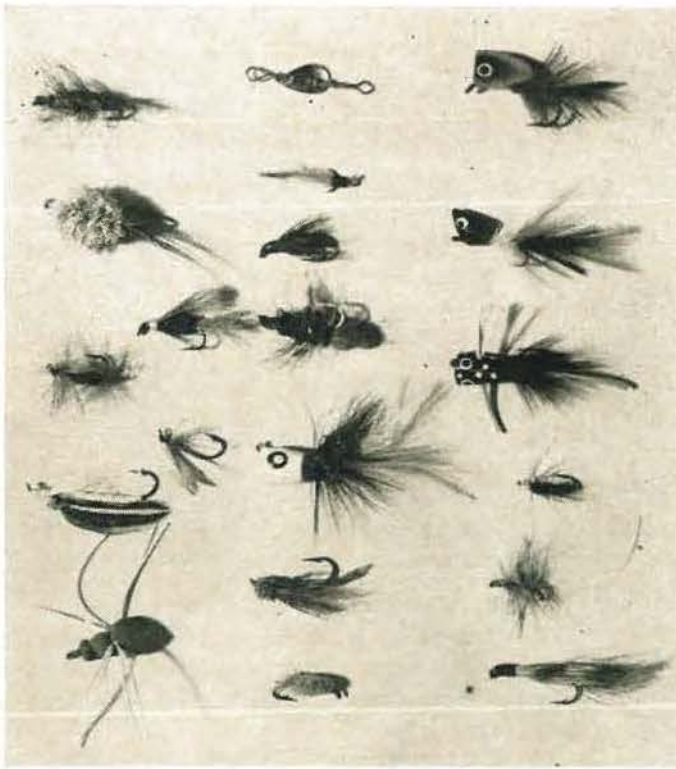
Now something more about accurate casting on shorelines: There are times when being able to hit a spot the size of a saucer is important. Accurate casting for black bass is essential but usually it's good enough if you can drop a plug on a spot the size of your hat.

Bob Budd, former national casting champ is one of the world's best with ultra-light tackle and I've written repeatedly about his activities. I'm not accurate with a spinning rod and on several occasions I've gone bream fishing with him, using duplicate lures and fishing shorelines. Giving me first chance

(Continued on next page)



Cool weather fishing for crappie with spinning rods and jigs. Brush piles and sunken logs are generally good sites, providing the water is reasonably deep.



Some favorite fly-rod lures for panfish. Since the advent of spinning, few spoons and spinners are used with fly tackle, although some very light ones will work. Part of the lures shown here are simply wet trout flies. Hook sizes for panfish are small; usually around No. 6 to No. 10.

Typical Florida bluegills are likely to run about the size of a man's hand. Many weigh around $\frac{3}{4}$ pound, but a fish over a pound is unusual in most waters.



(Continued from preceding page)

at the shore, he's caught 15 or 20 bluegills to my one, simply because the fish were lying close to the cover and he was casting within inches of them while I was missing the cover by a foot or more. This, of course, is short range casting.

Bluegills simply don't go far for a lure.

Now with a bug, spider or fly, such hair-splitting accuracy is helpful but not quite so necessary. The lure stays in the same place with only minor movement and the fish can swim over slowly to inspect it. The underwater spinning lure begins moving almost as soon as it hits the water and bluegills and their buddies just won't chase it.

Trout flies will catch plenty of bream although I believe the bigger fish definitely prefer bugs.

During the winter or in very hot weather when bluegills are lying deep, you can do a fine job on them by employing a sinking fly line. Some of the old sinking lines went down too slowly and made fishing pretty tiresome but you can get new ones that go down quickly. For larger panfish, a small streamer is fine. I feel that spinners are a worthwhile added attraction below the surface.

Casting even a small spinner with a flyrod is like hauling sand on a bicycle but there are many who do it. Usually their casts are short and what I generally call "flop casting" (no disparagement intended). There are some tiny wobbling spoons such as the one designed by the late Joe Cather which catch lots of fish and some of them cast fairly well on a fly rod.

Trout dry flies will catch bluegills by the dozen, especially at around dusk in warm weather. If you use flies smaller than No. 12's, the fish are apt to

be of trifling size. Big, bushy bivisibles on No. 10 or No. 8 hooks will get huskier fish as will small "powderpuffs" but a popping bug with rubber legs not only catches plate-sized bluegills but sometimes comes up with a bass worth keeping.

On popping bugs, you can use a No. 8 hook as a pretty good compromise but you can go to a No. 6 and be set up a little better for bass.

The warmouth perch usually runs smaller than bream in my neck of the woods but he has a big mouth and can take a good-sized popper. The front end of a warmouth looks a lot like a black bass.

Bluegills have easily torn mouths and many are lost from fish stringers. When there's little boat movement I usually fasten black bass only by their lower jaws on snap stringers. Big bluegills can tear loose from that kind of hookup. A livewell is fine or a net bag can be slung over the side of the boat. Through-the-gill stringing is messy and pretty tortuous to the fish when you get a heavy stringer-full that crushes the ones on the bottom.

With fairly heavy tackle, you can hoist bluegills into a boat. A small landing net is handy if you use light tackle and I always prefer a net for crappie.

However, if you don't want to use a net, a crappie can be landed by the lower jaw same as a bass.

Landing a big bluegill on a light leader can get ridiculous if you chase him by hand trying to grab

(Continued on page 34)

The Spring Gobbler Hunting Season

BY LOVETT WILLIAMS

THE IDEA OF HUNTING game animals during the season when they are mating is not unusual. Deer are traditionally hunted during their mating season throughout the world and so are many other mammals. Wild turkeys have been hunted during the spring, which is their mating season, in the South since Indian times. In neither case has any harm been done to the productivity of the species. Two facts are responsible: both animals are polygamous; and only males are hunted. There is little chance that public sentiment will ever overrule the tradition of hunting deer during the fall rutting season but spring gobbler hunting will not be as widely accepted until a few basic principles are understood.

Polygamy is the habit that the male of some species has of taking more than one mate. To begin with, most animals are born or hatched in about equal numbers of males and females. This means more males than can mate in polygamous species, and in a sense, the extra males do not function in the productivity of the flock or herd and could be removed from the population with no loss except the subtraction of these individuals alone. About 90% of the male turkeys in Florida are excess in this respect. One gobbler can mate at least 10 hens. Since hens and gobblers are hatched in about equal numbers, there are 9 extra toms for each hen. Each hen needs to be mated only once to take care of the

fertility requirements for her entire clutch of about 10 or 12 eggs, and she remains fertile for several weeks. After the single mating, the hen no longer needs a gobbler, and after all the hens are mated one time, all of the adult gobblers could be removed from the population without reducing the productivity (but, of course, under present regulations such a total harvest is impossible).

Taking this knowledge into consideration, biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have recommended an open season on gobblers throughout Florida, with a few local exceptions, in late March and early April of 1965. The dates for the season are selected with these objectives:

To open the season on a date late enough in the spring to insure that most of the hens have already been mated the single, essential time. This is mid-March in south Florida and late March in north Florida.

To permit the season to coincide with the time that toms are gobbling well and can be effectively harvested by hunters. Gobbling lasts throughout March in south Florida and usually reaches a peak in northern Florida around the first of April, depending on the weather.

To terminate the season before a significant portion of the hens begin incubation so that they will not be unduly disturbed by hunters.

Spring Hunting Dates

Turkey hunters — check your 1964-65 Hunting Regulations Summary. The spring turkey (gobbler only) hunting season will open March 13, 1965, and close March 28, 1965, in that portion of the state south of State Road No. 50.

North of State Road No. 50 the spring gobbler season will open March 27, 1965, and close April 11, 1965.

During the spring turkey gobbler season hunting will be allowed only from one-half hour before sunrise until 12-noon.

Hunters are permitted one gobbler per day, and two for the season.

Turkey hunters are advised to consult their summary of hunting rules and regulations, or to contact the local Wildlife Officer. Detailed information can be obtained from the Commission regional offices listed on page 3, or from county judge's offices.

Wildlife Biologists estimate that this special season will increase Florida's annual turkey harvest, by approximately 2,000 turkeys, but more importantly, it will provide more Floridians and visitors with a few more days to try to bag the largest and wariest game bird in North America, in the state which has more wild turkeys than any other. ●

Sex Evidence — Evidence of the sex, along with the heads, must remain on the carcasses of ALL TURKEY taken during the spring gobbler season, while in the field, forest or camp. Spring turkey hunting regulations on certain Management Areas appear in the General Summary of Regulations for Florida's Wildlife Management Areas, and in the December 1964 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

Is Conservation For The Multitude?

BY ERNEST SWIFT

A NATIONAL AUDUBON Camp is located a few miles from where I live in northern Wisconsin. The camp site includes several small clear-water lakes surrounded by undulating hills covered with a fine growth of hardwoods. The camp buildings are situated in a well-groomed area above the lake. The whole scene is inspiring and the atmosphere one of quiet beauty and peace. Strangely enough there are no television sets and no daily newspapers. For two weeks the people attending are on an oasis bypassed by the brutalities of the world.

The camp is now in its tenth year of operation, and I have watched its progress with keen interest. For the past four years I have been a frequent visitor, and on occasion have assisted in the program by discussing the historical background of the North Country.

I have found it very interesting to meet the people who attend as well as ascertain their background, and to learn something of the camp curriculum.

Those attending come from Florida, New England, the Midwest, and the Pacific states; and even a few are from foreign lands. They are doctors, teachers, students, housewives, men and women from the business world; and sometimes fathers, mothers and children all attend. New groups come every two weeks with a complement of about 45 people. I have found them serious, sincere and avid to learn. To some of the natives they are a bunch of birdwatchers.

Then there are the camp counsellors a dedicated group enlisted from various schools throughout the country and specialists in botany, geology, ornithology, etc.

Of interest to me is that these counsellors broaden the spectrum of their specialties to include forest land management, forest tax laws, problems of water pollution and soil erosion. These interests are in addition to bird, wildlife, plant and rock identification. Nightly lectures are given on subjects relating to many aspects of resource management, plus a strong undercurrent of conservation education. The teachers, in particular, want something which they can take back to their classrooms. These lectures are given both by counsellors and guest speakers. There is an air of intense interest and a wide range of discussion.

By and large these people are using their own vacation time and spending their own money to come and learn. Some come strictly as birdwatchers but leave with a much greater appreciation of the basic ingredients of what constitutes conservation.

A few miles from this Audubon retreat a highway runs north which carries a vast number of vacationists to northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Canada. There is a constant parade of overloaded cars, trailers, various camping outfits and oversized boats. Some have a destination, but many are urban gypsies vainly looking for a recreational rainbow. They are racing too fast to some unknown Utopia to see the roadside flowers — and couldn't identify them if noticed. The birds go unnoticed and unnamed; trees are simply trees with no eye for good or bad forestry practices; an appreciation of land management is as remote as Mars.

They are a cross-section of the great American Public, with a sensitive eye for rootbeer stands,

nightclubs and rest rooms instead of the vast complex of nature which they are passing through. At a filling station they either ask about or complain about the fishing. They want to know if there is a resort close by with a swimming pool; and where there is a good place to eat. On occasion someone may ask what the hicks around that vicinity do for a living.

Being in a position to contact both the gypsy vacationists and those who attend the Audubon camp, I find the contrast educational and rather striking. On the one hand a couple of hundred individuals at best, at a summer camp for two weeks in serious pursuit of basic knowledge are contrasted with a mass of frantic people racing helter-skelter to reap some phantom pleasures from the out-of-doors. They take, but they do not give in return; and taking is part of the national propaganda today.

There are many types of camps throughout the country today which bring young and old into some more or less serious contact with nature, but I wonder if the few will be able to influence the many before it is too late. Collectively, they are all a part of the electorate of this nation but the minority voice in this instance, in spite of sincerity, seems mighty feeble.

Many people coming to the Audubon camp for the first time are neophytes of the first water, but, nevertheless, they are attempting in their own way to fight ignorance, apathy and prejudice. They are attempting to pour into the bloodstream of conservation some of their own time and money. To me it is a form of patriotism, unsung and uncredited, but we can all hope that it will not go for naught. ●

Boating popularity gains as nation's craft totals push the eight million mark

Pontoon Boats

By ELGIN WHITE



EVERY LITTER BIT HURTS! How many times have we read, seen, heard and talked about this little phrase that is trying to get all homo sapiens in the right frame of mind about spreading litter over the face of America?

The face of America, chilluns, is two-faced. Meaning land and water. And the litter that is starting to clog our waterways is just as trashy and unsightly as that litter that borders the nation's highways.

Trouble is, for centuries on end boatmen have always taken to throwing things overboard (including a few of the human variety in the "ho ho ho and a dead man's chest" days) and letting the natural scavengers of the sea take care of keeping the waters clean.

But let's face it, modern-day boatmen . . . many items tossed from pleasure boats have a rather substantial ability to remain afloat. Disposable drinking cups, crumpled wax paper, plastic bags, glass bottles and metal cans with small openings are good examples. Some of these things can float for hours and even days.

It is up to us boatmen to take the bull by the horns, now, and start thinking about eliminating this needless ugliness that really is starting to bug things up. Here's what we can do:

Start talking to the family about not heedlessly throwing things overboard. Plan ways of taking care of refuse aboard your boat . . . for example, there are several brands of plastic contain-

ers which won't rust or rattle on the market today.

On small and confined bodies of water it is best never to throw bottles or cans overboard, even in deeper spots.

On large open ocean waters it is all right to discard such things when well clear of shore, but punch holes in both ends of cans so they'll sink promptly, and bottles should be filled with water before being tossed over the side.

Another little point . . . good boatmen observe other rules of good conduct when enjoying the freedom of the waterways. Some islands, points and sand spits, for example, are state and federal waterfowl refuges and during breeding season are off limits to human beings. Such boaters are also aware it is against the law to shoot sea birds (despite their apparently plentiful numbers), and that interfering with commercial fishermen's floats, nets, traps and other gear simply isn't done. Be neat, Charlie.

WITH SPRING COMING on the 21st of March, lotta Floridians are going to be hitting the lakes and swimmin' waters of our fair state, and there seems to be a lot of interest in the Aqua-Skimmer . . . cute little gimmick that acts, looks, and feels something like a surfboard . . . only it has a small outboard attached right in the middle and you steer with your tootsies. I saw one of these in action on Tallahassee's Lake Hall last year and the kids involved seemed to be having a whale of a time with it. It's really good for gettin' wet, and, well, let's face it . . . it's different!

GOT SOME VERY interesting figures in from Fred Lifton, president of the Outboard Boating Club of America. For those doubting Thomases who really aren't convinced yet of the importance of the boating industry in this bright land of ours . . . take a glimmer at these facts:

According to the annual joint
(Continued on next page)



More and more water lovers are turning to exciting modes of water transportation for fun . . . like this Aqua-Skimmer shown on the waters of Tallahassee's Lake Hall.

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statistical report compiled by the OBC and the National Association of Engine and Boat manufacturers, 38,500,000 persons took to the nation's waterways for fun and relaxation in 7,700,000 boats of every description in 1964. They invested \$2,605,000,000 at retail levels for new and used boats and motors, marine accessories and services.

The most impressive increases of the year were scored by the outboard segment of the industry. Sales of outboard motors reached 391,000 units in 1964, 29,000 more than in 1963. Outboard boat sales in 1964 totaled 270,000 units, compared with 257,000 units sold in 1963.

Other significant data revealed by the report shows that the 1964 sailboat fleet totaled 525,000 craft, an increase of 30,000 over 1963, and the inboard fleet accounted for 550,000 vessels in the U. S. pleasure boat fleet, compared with 4,425,000 outboard boats and 2,200,000 miscellaneous craft (canoes, row boats, etc.).

Lifton, in releasing the report, said, "This is impressive proof that boating has definitely emerged from the slow-down period we experienced in the early 60's."

"Tis proof, indeed, Freddie.

FELLA ASKED me not long ago what you can do about sea-sickness in a small boat. Now, this is a bit unusual, but it does happen. 'Course, the best bet is to down a dramamine tablet prior to stepping into any boat. I know for a long time there I could get sea-sick taking a shower, but drama-mine did the trick for me. If you are one of those characters who balk at taking any kind of pill, here's a little hint sent in by Bob Brewster about small-boat sea-sickness: Instead of watching the ripples or waves, fix your gaze on stationary objects within the boat. Also, if you suffer from this par-



Wide-beamed pontoon boats are becoming extremely popular as family outings increase each year.

ticular malady, sit in the middle of the boat, where the pitching and rolling is the least.

SHADES OF ol' Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn!

Look for more and more pontoon boats as the spring weather makes a serious bid for our attention. Since family boating has become the big thing it is, these flat-decked all purpose craft have really taken the public by storm.

Of course, all of us realize what a boom family camping is . . . well these pontoon boats just ease the pain of trying to find a good campsite by the river somewhere . . . you just camp on the boat!

The pontoon boat is essentially a machine-age raft. It consists of two "logs" which may be of metal, plastic or wood, atop of which rests a generous-sized platform. A small or medium sized outboard completes the rig.

The platform may be finished off with nothing more elaborate than a safety railing. Regular camping tents of various styles and sizes can be pitched on them to provide dressing rooms for daytime swimming or shelter for

sleeping. Slightly more elaborate versions have colorful canvas dodgers laced to the railings and fitted with gaily colored canopies.

All pontoon boats are ideally suited for entertaining sizeable groups abroad. They are quite safe because of their wide beam and the fact that their fully-enclosed pontoons can't fill with water or sink under heavy loads. The craft can navigate large lakes, rivers and inland waterways, but don't try to take 'em to sea. They aren't speedsters, either, but a few with large motors can go fast enough to pull skiers. And since construction is simple, prices are reasonable. You'll see a lot more of these babies this spring and summer.

ALWAYS GETTING some inquiries from statistical bugs, and seems the boys in the back rooms are making wagers on where Florida now stands as far as being one of the nation's leading boating states. Who made the bet that Florida was about seventh in the nation in distribution of outboard motors, for example? You're a winner. Our Sunshine State falls

into line behind New York, Michigan, California, Illinois, Texas, and Ohio, in that order.

IF YOU HAVE never been to the Chicago National Boat, Travel and Outdoors Show and are planning a jaunt up Windy City way in March, don't miss it.

This is undoubtedly one of the finest displays of boating and outdoor equipment anywhere in the world, and boating enthusiasts usually get more than just a look at pretty boats lined up in a row.

It is at the Chicago show that many new models and innovations are introduced, adding to the increased interest shown in boating by the figures presented in the preceding paragraphs.

One of the top attractions at this year's event, scheduled for McCormick Place March 6 through 14, will be the introduction of the world's largest production model fiberglass sailboat . . . a 49-foot, 4-inch yawl built in Italy. This will be quite a craft to view, but unless you keep company with the blue-bloods, forget about purchasing this baby. She retails for a cool \$49,995 without sails.

Boats at the Chicago show are getting bigger all the time. Guy W. Hughes, executive producer of the event, says that this year's fleet will include the largest craft ever exhibited, a 54-foot houseboat by Carri-Craft.

Other highlights you'll get a kick out of at the Chicago exhibit will be the camping equipment section, including everything from tents to "pop-up" folding tent campers to pick-up campers and self-contained motorized campers.

Hughes also stated that the largest fishing tackle representation in the history of the show will be a feature of this year's extravaganza. It is something every boatman should see, at least once. ●

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

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Florida state officials concerned with fishing and conservation called the program a significant contribution to the advancement of fish culture and management, and development of Florida recreation

"Scientific knowledge obtained in the Schlitz tagging program has provided guidelines for greatly expanding Florida's facilities for fresh water fishing," said John W. Woods, Chief, Fisheries Division, of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Robert M. Ingle, Director of Research of the Florida State Board of Conservation, pointed out that research data compiled from Schlitz fish tagging studies was being used by marine biologists throughout the world.

"Better facilities and experience," said Ingle, "should greatly improve the salt water tagging program in 1965. It will be made possible only by the substantial awards which encourage the return of tagged specimens for our study."

In the 1964 Derby, fishermen from Florida, 35 other states and Canada turned in 1,389 tagged fish to Schlitz wholesalers and received \$44,850 in awards. Since the annual Derby was started in 1961, 6,429 tagged fish have brought their captors \$243,075.

The information these fish provided has been the subject of several scientific publications, and a number of improved practices in fish culture and management.

The state agencies will tag and release 10,000 odd fish for the 1965 Derby in fresh and salt water of all 67 counties in Florida. The

species to be tagged and points of release are selected by the agencies to best serve their research purposes.

Each of the tags is numbered, and each number has a corresponding cash value, assigned in an impartial drawing previous to the Derby.

One fish with a value of \$10,000 is released in each of the four zones, and other individual tag values are \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$1,000, when redeemed during the Derby period in the respective zones.

In addition, due to the important research value of uncaught previously tagged fish, awards ranging from \$25 to \$500 have been assigned to a select number of "old" fish caught during the 1965 Derby period in each zone.

As an innovation and a bonus for the 1965 Derby, certain fish will be designated for Old Milwaukee Conservation Awards, their numbers made known after each zone is opened, and their captors will receive double the amount of their normal Derby value.

Dates of the fifth annual Derby were advanced in three zones over those of previous years to more closely follow peak fishing seasons, and to provide more time to state agencies for improved tagging operations.

As in the past, any tagged fish caught after the end of the 1965 Derby in each zone will be redeemed for \$3 for the benefit of the research program.

Recreation Requirements

SECRETARY OF THE Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced requirements for the comprehensive outdoor recreation plans which States will need to qualify for new Federal grants-in-aid under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act for acquiring

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and developing outdoor recreation lands and waters.

The statewide plans will encompass outdoor recreation programs, activities, resources and needs throughout each State. The requirements announced were designed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to assist States and Territories in qualifying for the grants-in-aid.

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, effective January 1, 1965, States must submit comprehensive outdoor recreation plans to qualify for Federal grants-in-aid for acquiring and developing needed State and local public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The Fund also provides grants-in-aid for State outdoor recreation planning. Under the Act, grants-in-aid are available upon Congressional appropriation. States must match the Federal funds.

According to the requirements, State recreation plans should include statements of objectives, the State's legal authority to accept grants-in-aid, action programs proposed, and coordination with Federal plans and programs. They also will include a description of the State's public and private outdoor recreation resources, delineation of State, county, municipal and other public recreation responsibilities, and contributions by the private sector.

Indication of how local and other public agencies may share in benefits from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and data on outdoor recreation demand, supply, needs and special problems within the State also will be covered.

"The end result of these State plans will be balanced, high quality outdoor recreation systems offering every citizen great diversity of opportunity for memorable outdoor experiences," Secretary Udall said.

Secretary Udall said that many States have commenced or are now prepared to develop their comprehensive statewide plans.

Some have already established advisory boards or committees composed of interested citizens or representatives of local governments to assure that plans reflect the diverse needs of all groups and areas. He urged others to follow this practice.

The majority of the States have designated liaison officers to work with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in carrying out the program. The formal requirements have been provided to the State liaison officers. Florida county and local officials, as well as organizations and private citizens interested in various types of outdoor recreation, should contact the Outdoor Recreation Development Council, Tallahassee, Fla., to see that their needs are considered in the State outdoor recreation plan.

Wildlife Nature Stamps

EVER SEE A gray-crowned rosy finch, Great purple hairstreak, lookdown, or brittlebush? These are but four of the 36 species of American wildlife depicted in the 1965 edition of the famous stamps issued each year since 1938 by the National Wildlife Federation. More than two million conservationists will receive the new sheet of colorful stamps through the mails during the next six months, according to Federation Executive Director Thomas L. Kimball.

Reproduced in full-color printing from original paintings by some of the nation's most outstanding artists, the 1965 wildlife conservation stamps feature portraits of five mammals, 12 birds (including the gray-crowned rosy finch), three butterflies (including the Great purple hairstreak), nine fish (including the lookdown), six wildflowers (including brittlebush) and one tree—the Ponderosa pine. Under the direction of Federation Art Director Roger Tory Peterson, an art team of Maynard Reece, Don Eckelberry, Rudy Freund, Don Malik, Jean Zallinger, Louis Darling, Suzan Swain, and Peterson have combined their talents with

those of the graphic arts to produce an outstanding set of dramatic portraits. The result is a series of colorful stamps suitable for any decorative or educational use. Many school children and teachers use the stamps in learning about America's wildlife heritage and save them in special albums published by the Federation. The albums contain complete descriptions of the birds, animals, fish and plants portrayed by the stamps plus other articles of interest to nature students.

All contributions received in the wildlife conservation stamp distribution program are used by the Federation to support its educational efforts throughout the country. Contributors help support publication and distribution of educational leaflets, college scholarships for deserving students of conservation, promotion of National Wildlife Week, and many other projects aimed at acquainting all Americans with the need to conserve and wisely use natural resources. The 1965 edition of wildlife conservation stamps, as well as some previous editions, can be obtained from the Federation's headquarters, 1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 for a minimum donation of \$1.00. Stamp albums are also available at a price of fifty cents.

Barge Canal Policy

THE FLORIDA Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at a business meeting in Tallahassee, January 29, 1965, adopted a statement of policy regarding the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. The statement of policy is as follows:

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission realizes that the Cross-Florida Barge Canal will have a drastic impact on the involved fish and wildlife resources of central Florida. Based on this knowledge, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has conducted research, made inventories, and reviewed plans prepared by the Corps of Engineers. Our

findings indicate that there will be certain adverse effects on the fish and wildlife resources but that these are overshadowed by increased fishing and waterfowl hunting opportunities associated with construction of Rodman and Eureka Reservoirs.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, therefore, endorses construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal provided that its recommendations concerning preservation, mitigation of losses or enhancement of the fish and wildlife resources are followed, and provided that adequate public access and recreational facilities are incorporated into the project to provide realization of the predicted fishing and hunting opportunities. We shall continue to work closely with the Corps of Engineers and the Canal Authority to achieve the program on which this statement is based.

Hunter Safety Program

THE HUNTER Casualty Report, prepared and distributed by the National Rifle Association in cooperation with 40 states and seven Canadian provinces, is the only authoritative source of information on the causes and circumstances of hunting casualties. The records show that hunting accidents with firearms are due primarily to carelessness or ignorance of proper gun handling. It was on the basis of this finding that the NRA Hunter Safety Course was established in 1948 as a public service. To date, nearly two-million hunters have taken this course, and the total number of field accidents has declined, even though the number of hunters has greatly increased. The NRA is a non-profit membership organization recognized as the governing body for shooting in the U. S.

Early Teal Hunting

THE BLUE-WINGED teal, an early migrating North American duck, will be the object of an experimental hunting season in the



Children are, as every squirrel well knows, a "soft-touch" when it comes to passing out peanuts provided by doting parents. This smart little critter is just one of the tame hundreds roaming the vast Nature Park, at Homosassa Springs, on Florida's Gulf coast seventy-five miles north of St. Petersburg, on U.S. Highway 19.

Central and Mississippi Flyways this year, the Department of the Interior announced January 15, 1965.

A nine-day season, scheduled for September as a research project, will require close cooperation between Federal and State wildlife agencies and individual hunters, said John Gottschalk, Director of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He said the bulk of blue-wings normally migrate before opening day of the regular waterfowl season and, therefore, shooting pressure on them is light.

"Since a relatively small portion of the blue-winged teal population is taken by hunters, the natural mortality of these birds is obviously quite high, judging from our annual counts," Director Gottschalk said. "We hope to determine if a greater kill will take birds that would die anyway, or whether it would add to the overall annual mortality rate and how much."

Other factors to be determined from the experimental season include the number of teal killed according to age, sex, and species; hunter interest and participation by location and time periods; the degree to which hunters distinguish teal, including blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon, from other species of duck. The kill of green-winged and cinnamon teal is expected to be small because green-wings are late migrants and cinnamon teal are uncommon in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

Mississippi Flyway States are Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The Central Flyway includes Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming lying east of the Continental Divide. ●

FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

jerkily. Ease of turning is important but since most casters either drag a thumb lightly over the spool or tighten it down slightly to prevent backlash, the very last bit of spool speed generally goes to waste.

Fast reels are better to cast with but you can get them too fast. Sometimes a casting reel has so light a spool the thumbing becomes a little too critical for most of us. A little inertia is necessary.

I have heard tournament casters remark that they had doctored a reel until it was "too fast" with the weight they were using.

Probably the ideal condition when casting is to have the wet line sticking very slightly to the spool—not enough to "turn under" but just enough to keep from springing off in coils.

There are times when this condition becomes so perfect that you don't have to thumb at all except at the very beginning and end of the cast.

Things have to be just about right for the reel spool to turn in step with the speeding lure that's pulling on it. Remember that the lure starts with something of a jerk, generally slows rapidly as it reaches the top of its arc and then may drop into the water with very little further pull on the line. That's why an educated thumb will usually get better distance than a tightened anti-backlash mechanism.

It's also a good selling point for the aforementioned Ambassadeur reel which employs centrifugal force in its mechanical backlash control. The idea is that the faster the spool whirls the more "control" is exercised.

Generally, fishermen who ask about reel smoothness are interested primarily in distance. Well, any of the light-spoiled casting reels on the market now—or the newer free-spooling models—should be about equal in the dis-



Some real lunker bass from the spawning shallows. These went after skirted Hawaiian Wigglers.

tance department with satisfactory lines and balanced lines and lure weights.

Generally though, if you want to throw a mile you'll find your thumb more efficient than any kind of brake. It takes practice.

YOU KNOW you can do away with backlash trouble altogether if you want to clamp an anti-backlash device down tightly enough.

'Way back when not many reels could be adjusted to control the spool speed, some casters actually left the click on to save the trouble of thumbing. That was pretty silly in the daytime but was understandable at night when you couldn't see where the lure was going.

NIFTY GIMMICK for frequent launchers of boats is two drain plugs. One plug is quite small but

will let out the rain that catches your boat on the trailer. The big one will drain the boat quickly when under way. Keep the big one closed except when actually bailing the boat.

If you forget to insert the little plug before launching, there'll be plenty of time to replace it before she sinks. Big one will give you wet feet.

ALUMINUM ROD cases are a good investment although most of them are a little skimpy in size. A good one should last as long as you do.

The big adjustable ones are handiest of all, collapsing to the right length for whatever rods you're carrying.

However, collapsible rod cases must be handled with care in one respect. If you force them into your luggage lengthwise, they can collapse and break rod tips. I busted two.

If you know how long you're going to want the case at all times, you can put an aluminum pipe of the right length inside, keeping the thing from collapsing on your pet. I did.

JUST WHAT causes an outboard propellor to pick up floating grass—or pass it by—is sometimes difficult to figure. Generally a 2-bladed prop collects less. Sometimes a certain speed seems to get you through better. The angle of the shaft may make a difference.

Floating grass is sometimes a real problem along shallow Florida coasts. I've stopped 25 times a mile, which gets a bit tiresome. In one case I noted that a 75-horse motor went through while a 28 bogged down repeatedly both with 3-bladed wheels. Other merits and disadvantages aside, I find that lower unit housings without protruding noses go through floating grass better. ●

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

(Continued from page 5)

for future generations only a posture, or an excuse for present-day demands? Much it is, and to imply it is all for the children is a rather shabby defense.

But the past will never return, the clock will never stop. Higher standards of living are stressed, yet there is a certain healthy difference of opinion—be it a minority opinion—as to what these standards should constitute.

I once met a couple of young hunters in southwestern Minnesota and I fell to reminiscing about the tremendous populations of prairie chickens that were once common in that region, and that now with all the prairie plowed up, were all gone. The two young men were unimpressed, as one said: "So what! We've got pheasants." Their daily bag limit of ducks was so meagre that I did not mention the flights of ducks and geese, from horizon to horizon, that I had once seen in that area; or that market hunting and spring shooting were common.

I sadly realized that what they had not seen or experienced was no loss, nor even vaguely envisioned. Their more restrictive experiences were completely satisfying, and other forms of recreation supplied an outlet for excess energy.

The older members of the outdoor fraternity interested in hunting and fishing often lament the fact that fewer youngsters take up these hobbies, and participate in local rod and gun club programs.

There are exceptions. Some fathers religiously raise their sons and daughters to participate in all the outdoor enjoyments, including wilderness travel and bird watching, and I have heard parents insist that their children pass into adulthood with much greater self-reliance because of these experiences. But other parents also

say the same things about football, baseball and skiing. Possibly building self-reliance is the all-important issue whatever avenue is taken.

It does seem, however, that when children are brought up to enjoy the more primitive aspects of the out-of-doors they gain a better appreciation of personal and economic survival. And that is one reason why it is more necessary today than ever before.

Urban types of recreation do not emphasize the origin of a loaf of bread, a glass of milk, a sirloin steak, a piece of lumber, a railroad tie or a wooden fence post; or that the metals which go into building a hot rod are nonrenewable.

The danger lies in assuming that there is no bottom to the resource barrel. Previous generations thought the resources were inexhaustable, but at least they knew their origin. A large segment of the present generation assumes that resources are inexhaustable because they do not know where they come from, and care less.

No amount of wishful thinking will turn the clock back to the days of great open spaces, to unfenced range, to buffalo and prairie chickens, and the laissez-faire handling of soil, water and timber.

Early conservationists were planners in their own right and pioneers of many of today's actions. At that time they concerned themselves with the most obvious, and with a tendency to lock up all resources which were left.

Today the nation is enthusiastically planning in many directions, and with such a frenzy that all cannot be indexed or evaluated. Three decades ago there was still fear of a timber famine—not

The bullfrog is the only frog that exceeds four inches in size.

without justification—but this concern led to improved forest fire protection, better forest management, better utilization and a gradual revamping of tax laws. Recently Dr. H. R. Josephson, Director of the Division of Forest Economics and Marketing Research, U. S. Forest Service stated: "With continued improvements in timber management and utilization in U. S. forests projected timber demands in the year 2000 could be met." And Dr. John A. Zivnuska, professor of Forestry, University of California, says: "The long historic phase of declining timber volumes in the United States has now clearly come to an end." This is all the result of realistic planning by Federal, state and private participation.

But what about water? Its volume cannot be expanded, but its use can be controlled. Pollution is one of the major factors of quality, and there are regions today where water is used and reused many times. Scientists project an increase of two and one half times the volume presently used by the year 2000. Of course, de-salting sea water may ease the problem, but it will not take care of the entire U. S. Added to this is the recreational demand for more parks, wilderness, open space, etc.

Projecting future uses must be balanced with ultimate availability of all resources. An earthy old woodsman once told me, "It ain't what you want that makes you fat—it's what you get."

All this planning has the earmarks of giving some consideration to future generations. It is hoped that the planning will be premised on sound philosophies before actions are taken.

But there will be many dramatic changes, the nostalgic freedoms and abundance of the past will grow dim or be regimented. As the young hunters told me, "So what! We've got pheasants." ●

PANFISH ANGLING

(Continued from page 24)

around his back. The easy way is to lay your hand, palm-up, just beneath the surface and then pull the fish over it on his side with his mouth facing toward your wrist. You can lift him aboard then without wild flopping and without grabbing him at all—even if he is (praise be!) considerably bigger than your hand.

Two-pound and larger crappies aren't unusual but I don't think I've ever caught a Florida bluegill that would weigh more than a pound. I've weighed a number of them that went $\frac{3}{4}$ pound and the other day Dr. H. R. Wilber checked a string of 12 that went 10 pounds. That's about as good as you can expect.

When selecting ultra-light tackle for panfish, there's a tendency toward very short rods, both in fly casting and spinning. In a tackle store, these sticks feel wondrously dainty but, as in other kinds of fishing, the very short rod amounts to a handicap. If you really want to handicap yourself for fun, go ahead, but a 4-foot spinning rod is hard for me to cast with and I'd prefer a 6-footer at least. It happens that the spinning rod I'm now using for panfish is five feet long and has such a nice action I'll probably keep it but I believe I could cast better with another foot out there.

Note also that the added length gives the fish leverage and keeps you from manhandling him so easily.

Distance casting seldom has a

place in panfishing and you can get a fly or bug plenty far enough with a 5-foot fly rod but it's a lot less work with a 7-footer and eight feet isn't too much.

Besides, in my case at least, the somewhat longer rods aren't such a long jump from the gear I use for bass or salt water fishing. It is hard to go from a 9-foot bug rod to a 5-footer for bream, especially if the latter is a little too stiff as short rods tend to be.

A friend of mine thought he had a light action panfish fly rod when he first bought it but now uses it for snook and tarpon. Don't be too sure until you've rigged it up and tried it.

If you're in Florida, it isn't far to panfish but if you want glory better fish for something bigger. ●

DOGS—HUNTING

(Continued from page 11)

Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Club were some of the most notable and highly respected score keepers of the bird dog and field trial fraternity. Judging the Open All-Age was J. S. (Dick) Dickerson of Magnolia Springs, Alabama. Joining Dick Dickerson in the responsibility of picking the top dog in the Open All-Age was Joe Hurdle of Holly Springs, Mississippi. Combined, the two Open judges represented more than thirty years of field trial experience. Judges for the derby and puppy stakes were Henry P. Davis of Magnolia Springs, Alabama, and Ed C. Laslie of Tuskegee, Alabama.

The field trial area comprising some three thousand acres is primarily pine and scrub oak with rolling hills. Heavy vegetation in the bottom and open pinelands interspersed with scrub oaks provides a wide latitude of cover for birds and bird dogs. The trial

courses were designed to provide each dog with an opportunity to experience the different types of cover and terrain. Each course passed through areas adjacent to food plots and while the dogs recorded a good number of finds many other covies were ridden up by the gallery. There was no question in the minds of the handlers and judges as to the quantity of birds in the area.

The Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Club reached out for the whole cake, took a big bite and then did an outstanding job of chewing and digesting it, frosting, candles and all. This club carried off a splendid field trial and brought it to a successful conclusion. The cream of the field trialers brought their best dogs, the weatherman smiled on the group, and the club members did everything possible to make the handlers feel at home. Excellent mounts were provided for the judges, marshals and reporters, and never at any field trial

has there been such publicity and trial coverage as provided by the Pensacola News and Pensacola JOURNAL. Both the morning and evening papers provided a running account of the trial as well as a number of feature stories on judges, handlers, and dogs.

When viewing the wind up, a special tip of the field trial hat must be made to Jack Fiveash, the field trial chairman, who was everywhere at all times before, during and after the trial; to Bob Weeks the Club president for a steady hand and early morning and late evening hours seeing that everything was moving smoothly; to Arthur Brown, chairman of the registrations committee; to Harold Stokes, editor of the Pensacola paper for on the spot coverage and advance publicity; to Paul Green the host professional, and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

From here the only way is up. ●



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is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

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Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

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Bait or Lure Used _____

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Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

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(Signature of Applicant)

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.....4 pounds or larger

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.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

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.....2 pounds or larger

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.....1 pound or larger

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Signs of Spring — White-tailed Deer Fawn — Photo by Leonard Lee Rue III

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